

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 7, 2004, the Examiner indicated that original claims 3, 6, 9-11, 14, 19 and 20 are allowable in substance. In addition, he rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Takagi.

By this Amendment, Claims 3-7 and 9-22 are pending in the application.

Applicant requests the Examiner's consideration of claims 3-7 and 9-22 in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks hereinbelow.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Original claims 3, 6, 9-11, 14, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include subject matter that the Examiner concluded is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art. Accordingly, claims 3, 6, 9-11, 14, 19 and 20 have been so amended and therefore should now be allowed.

Moreover, new claim 21 combines subject matter of original claims 1 and 3(allowable in substance) that is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art - consistent with the Examiner's statement to that effect. New claim 22 combines subject matter of original claims 1 and 6(allowable in substance) that is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art - consistent with the Examiner's statement to that effect. Currently amended claim 12 combines subject matter of original claims 12 and 14(allowable in substance) that is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art - consistent with the Examiner's statement to that effect. Currently amended claim 18 combines subject matter of original claims 18 and 20 (allowable in substance) that is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art - consistent with the Examiner's statement to that effect.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that in view of the above amendments and remarks, that this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner disagrees in any way he is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record in an attempt to resolve such disagreement, and thus place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roland R. Schindler II/jrk', written over a horizontal line.

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